

time I would like to read their names into the record: Gregory M. Sears, Alane Stoffregen, and William Howard Warren. Their names will be etched on the memorial wall, and will join 4 other officers from Illinois already memorialized. In addition to those three officers, I would also like to read into the record the names of two fallen officers from the St. Louis, Missouri area, which is across the river from the district I represent. The officers are: Robert J. Stanze II, St. Louis Police Department, and Richard Eric Weinhold, St. Louis County.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our fallen Peace Officers as well as honoring our courageous law enforcement officers. These men and women deserve this praise and recognition.

COMMEMORATING DEDICATION
AND SACRIFICES OF LAW EN-
FORCEMENT OFFICERS

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to recognize Police Memorial Week. It is a time when the citizens of our Nation join the families, friends, and colleagues of America's slain peace officers, to honor and remember their sacrifice.

On September 24, 1789, Congress created the first Federal law enforcement officer, the United States Marshal. Five years later, on

January 11th, 1794, U.S. Marshal Robert Forsyth became the first officer in a long list of men and women who have given their lives to protect and serve the communities of their beloved nation. Since then, over 14,000 officers have died in the line of duty, including over 1,000 from the state of New York. The city of New York has lost more officers than any other department in the nation, with more than 500 deaths. These heroes must never be forgotten, and their sacrifice as a reminder that the price of a safer America, a nation based on law and order, is being paid for by the lives of our men and women in blue.

Earlier today, along with President Bush and attorney General Ashcroft, I had the opportunity to participate with the friends and families of our Nation's slain police officers at the 20th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service outside the Capitol. This service reflects the loss which our Nation's communities have felt and echo our need to ensure that our nation's law enforcement community is provided the support and assistance necessary to protect our communities and our citizens.

Although our Nation's crime rate is at its lowest level in years, on the average, one law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America nearly every other day. Over the past 10 years, America has lost one police officer every 54 hours; over 1,500 men and women. In the year 2000, 150 men and women who served our communities with the greatest honor, respect and dedication, gave their lives to protect our Nation's communities.

Accordingly, we honor Police Memorial Week, to remind us that when a police officer is killed, it is not a community that loses an of-

ficer, it is an entire nation. We hope and pray that the senseless murders and crimes against our Nation's bravest men and women will one day cease; until then we will do everything we can in order to remember and honor all of our law enforcement officers who have ever given their lives.

Let us take this opportunity to recite the names of those fallen heroes from New York, who, in the name of duty, gave their lives over the past year: Officer Raymond J. Curtis, Officer John M. Kelly, Officer T. Michael Kelly, Trooper Kenneth A. Poormon, and Officer David Alexander Regan. I would also like to pay tribute to New York City Police Officer Michael Buczek of Suffern who was brutally murdered in the line of duty in 1988. In March of this year we were able to secure the extradition of Pablo Almonte Telluberes, his accused killer, from the Dominican Republic after years of international negotiation. The return of this cop killer to face American justice is a tribute to the many law enforcement officials who pursued the case and refused to give up in the name of their fallen comrade. To Michael Buczek and all of our fallen officers, we express our nation's gratitude.

To our fallen men and women in blue, I pledge to you, that in your spirit, I will continue to fight for those laws that provide our Nation's peace officers with the tools needed to fulfill their mandate of making our communities a safer place in which to live.

I invite all Americans to visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington which is a fitting tribute to their dedicated service and sacrifice.